

September 2, 2005

Federal Communications Commission
RE: NPRM 05-235

To Whom it may concern:

I am very pleased with your proposal #05-235. Having read the entire proposal I can comment that I believe it was well thought through and the reasoning for all proposed actions were clearly defined and explained. Since this is a strongly emotional issue for many Amateur Radio Operators I am sure it needed to be carefully crafted.

I believe, as was stated in your proposal, that eliminating the code testing requirement will in the long run benefit the Amateur Radio Service. A few of my reasons for this belief follow: Allowing the interest in CW operations to stand on their own merits will strengthen this mode of operation. At the same time having final resolution on this issue will remove a large division in the amateur service. CW operations are needed but should not be "exclusionary" to other aspects and facets of our great hobby/service. CW skills are not an effective filter to insure Amateur Operators are of sound character as many proponents of keeping the element 1 test contend.

Having been an active Volunteer Examiner for several years, I am acutely aware of the frustration created by preventing interested Hams from upgrading based on knowledge of a single mode of operation. This "obstacle" has been very hard to explain to candidates whose interests in amateur radio are technically oriented to newer digital modes. Innovation is a strong benefit of amateur radio and is stifled by unexplainable emphasis placed on antiquated skills. The results of this frustration may have prevented many very deserving candidates from participating in Amateur Radio. In many cases these candidates turn their attentions to other outlets for their interests in digital communications. This is not a benefit to our Service. However, eliminating CW testing requirements will be.

And finally, as recent events have made so clear, we need to strengthen our Amateur Radio Service in order to make sure as many stations as possible will have access to training for emergency backup communications and be functional in times of local or national disaster. Communications systems must be equally capable of providing the most efficient technologies available as well as the most basic.

Thank you for your open and careful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

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